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CURRENT SUPPORT BRIEF

SOVIET IMPORTS OF WESTERN CHEMICAL EQUIPMENT
CONTINUE TO RISE SHARPLY

OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND REPORTS

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SOVIET IMPORTS OF WESTERN CHEMICAL EQUIPMENT CONTINUE TO RISE SHARPLY

Soviet imports of chemical equipment continued to rise sharply in 1960, with imports from non-Bloc countries increasing 75 percent over the previous year, according to recently published Soviet trade statistics. Western Germany was the chief source of chemical equipment, followed by the United Kingdom, Italy, and France. Both West Germany and the United Kingdom exported more chemical equipment to the USSR than did Czechoslovakia, the leading Bloc supplier. Imports from West Germany alone, amounted to 83 percent of the Soviet imports of chemical equipment from the Bloc countries.

Since 1957, Soviet imports of chemical equipment from non-Bloc countries have been rising steadily. In 1957, these imports accounted for slightly less than a third of the total. Two years later, non-Bloc countries accounted for more than two-thirds, and, in 1960, for nearly three-quarters of the total Soviet imports of chemical equipment.

During the first half of 1961, exports of chemical equipment to the USSR by West Germany show a further rise--equalling 62 percent of the total exported to the USSR during the entire year 1960. In addition the USSR signed contracts in 1961 with other Western countries for chemical plants. Among these are plants for the production of rayon, ammonia, propylene, oxygen, and nitrogen.

Barring unforeseen circumstances, the Soviet need for imports of chemical equipment and plants from the West probably will continue to increase to meet the plans for the growth and development of chemical industry of the USSR during the current Seven-Year Plan (1959-65) and in later years, as well.

Soviet Imports of Chemical Equipment, 1957-60*
(Million rubles-new)

<u>Bloc countries</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>
Czechoslovakia	4.2	10.8	13.2	22.8
East Germany	10.2	15.8	18.0	16.7
Hungary	1.0	1.3	2.5	4.4
Rumania	0	0	0	1.3
Subtotal	15.4	27.9	33.7	45.2
<u>Non-Bloc Countries</u>				
France	0.1	3.3	6.5	15.9
Italy	0	0.0	6.0	20.6
United Kingdom	0.2	5.7	30.1	35.3
West Germany	2.2	4.9	20.0	37.4
Other	4.2	3.7	7.5	13.8
Subtotal	6.7	17.6	70.1	123.0
Grand total	22.1	45.5	103.8	168.2

* May not include pumps and compressors for use in chemical processes. 1957 and 1958 data converted to new rubles on basis of 1 new ruble = 4.44 old rubles. One new ruble equals US \$1.11 at the official note of exchange.

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Analyst:

Coord:

Sources:

1. Vneshnyaya Torovla SSSR Za 1959 God (Foreign Trade of the USSR, 1959), Moscow, 1960. U.
2. Vneshnyaya Torovla SSSR Za 1960 God (Foreign Trade of the USSR, 1960), Moscow, 1961. U.
3. JPRS: 1087-D, 30 Dec 59, Foreign Trade of the USSR, 1958. U.

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